THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incident was investigated by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The cause of the incident has been attributed to improper rigging in cable contol of alternate extension system of right undercarriage.

(c) DGCA has suspended the licences of the 3 Aircraft Maintenance Engineers who had conducted the maintenance/anti-sabotage check of the aircraft. To avoid recurrence of such incidents the following one time checks have been conducted on B-747 aircraft in the fleet of Air India.

(i) Fleet-wise inspection of the cable system of alternate landing gear extension system.

(ii) Fleet-wise, tension check of the cables of the landing gear extension system.

As an additional safety measure, an item has been included in check 'A' (1200 hours) inspection schedule for inspection of the condition of the cables and tension checks of alternate landing gear extension system.

Free tickets under "Operation Plague"

298. SMT. KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had offered free international tickets to certain class of people from within the country and outside under "Operation Plague";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the purpose for issuing free tickets:

(c) what is the estimated expenditure incurred as a result thereof; and

(d) what is the achievement made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India had placed 500 tickets at the disposal of Department of Tourism to invite media personnel, opinion makers and major tour operators to visit India to see for themselves that the major tourist destinations within India are safe from plague.

(c) Issuance of free tickets has not resulted in any revenue loss as load factors of Air India flights were low in the wake of plague outbreak.

(d) The visits of media personnel and tour operators have helped to remove misconceptions and unspecified fears relating to the alleged plague outbreak.

Exodus of pilots and commanders from IA

299. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indian Airlines pilots and commanders who left the Airlines since the beginning of 1994 and how many pilots and commanders have expressed their desire to leave the Airlines;

(b) what is the overall impact on the working of the Indian Airlines vis-a-vis earnings as a result thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for failure of the efforts made so far by Government to check the exodus of the Indian Airlines pilots and commanders?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Thirty seven pilots have left Indian Airlines in 1994 upto 30-11-1994. One pilot has tendered his resignation giving 6 months' notice on 27-9-94.

(b) Due to the exodus, there is a shortage of Commanders on all types of aircraft, resulting in lesser utilisation of aircraft leading to an approximate loss of Rs. 80 crores during the year 1994-95.

(c) Private airlines are paying much higher emoluments as compared to Indian Airlines.

Fall in earnings of AI and IA

300. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign airlines operating in the country have made considerable dent in the earnings of Air India and Indian Airlines during 1993-94;

(b) if so, what is the estimated fall in the revenue earnings of the Air India and Indian Airlines during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and since the begining of the financial year 1994-95;

(c) what are the names of the sectors which have shown fall in the Air India and Indian Airlines earnings; and

(d) what measures have been taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) While Air India's share of the Indian air market has declined due to the operation of foreign airlines, there has been an increase in the total revenue earning by Air India in 1993-94 compared to 1992-93. In 1994-95 also, no significant reduction in revenue is expected. So far as Indian Airlines is concerned, operation of foreign airlines do not adversely affect its revenues.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To improve its market share, Air India has taken the following steps:—

(1) Fleet modernisation;

(2) Network expansion;

(3) Production upgradation;

(4) Introduction of schemes, like frequent fliers Programme, Hub & Spoke operations etc. with Indian Airlines, for tapping the Indian market.

Loss to IA, AI and Tourism Industry due to plague

301. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of total losses suffered by Air India, Indian Airlines and other Airways operating in the country and Tourism Department due to the recent outbreak of plague in Surat and certain other places in the country;

(b) which are the foreign Airlines which suspended their flights to and through India on account of plague together with the dates on which each of these Airlines had suspended and restored these flights;

(c) to what extent Missions abroad particularly in East have been successful in projecting the true picture and removing the apprehensions about plague in India;

(d) what are the details of the losses suffered by each of the chain of hotels due to the suspension of flights by the foreign tourists (month-wise) so far in 1994;

(e) what is the present position about the visit of foreign tourists to India and how far the normal position has been restored in this behalf; and